

Exhibition Highlight

NEWS



[Shane McAdams](#)' *Splayed Oak* installation, now on view as part of [Current Tendencies IV: Topography Transformed](#), reflects the artist's ongoing investigation into materials and their power to blur the line between the natural and artificial. By slicing an oak tree vertically, and then displaying it in discrete sections, McAdams makes the tree's grain visible as a graphic image. This "natural" form is then pushed further into the symbolic realm through the application of ballpoint pen and resin, two materials that are divorced from their intended function and subjected to the forces of gravity and chance. For McAdams, this process inverts the relationship between his materials, with the man-made ballpoint pen serving as a representation of natural processes and the tree as an organic material transformed into abstraction.

Shane McAdams

Splayed Oak, 2015

Ballpoint pen and resin on oak slabs

Courtesy of the artist



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